

SEP 27 1979

# The Libertarian Party of Oklahoma

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## L P O   N E W S

### SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE

This special issue marks the return of the LPO News to a regular monthly schedule. Future issues will have a more conventional newsletter format and will be out around the first week of the month. Special issues with more than usual material meant for wider distribution will come out whenever the occasion demands. This also marks the last of the "free" issues, so if you have let your membership slide better get it in if you want to stay in touch. If your subscription has not been getting to you or friends haven't been getting theirs at all, let us know please!

#### A TWO CONVENTION SUMMER FOR OKIE DELEGATES - Ed Clark Wins Presidential Nomination

The last month and a half have been a gloriously hectic one for your humble editor and a number of Okie delegates. The state and national conventions have absorbed a lot of time and generated a lot of energy.

The Okla. LP convention held at the Hilton Inn in Tulsa the 14th of July featured guest speakers Bill Hunscher and Ed Clark, both came to solicit the LP presidential nomination. Craig V. Franklin Libertarian troubador was on hand to provide entertainment. Other guests came to join the festivities from Arkansas and Texas.

The consensus of opinion after the state convention seemed to be that both Clark and Hunscher are very impressive men and that a choice would be extremely

difficult. However one issue arose which pretty clearly polarized the Oklahoma delegation and indeed apparently the national convention as well. This was Bill Hunscher's stated intention to enter the Democratic primary in his home state of New Hampshire with the plan of taking a substantial percentage of the vote away from Jimmy Carter. Bill's partisans claimed that this would be a large fortune's worth of publicity. Ed replied that it would be negative publicity.

At the national convention held on Sept. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 at the Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles the Oklahoma delegation split its' vote four for Clark, two for Hunscher. That ratio was reflected in the entire convention vote. Ed Clark endorsed and won acceptance for David Koch of New York for his vice-presidential running mate. David Koch has pledged to contribute a half-million dollars of his own money to the Presidentian campaign for starters.

In conclusion: this election year we have a good candidate with an excellent relationship with the media who has shown that he can speak directly and well to the hot issues of this time and a lot of money besides. The other parties are fragmenting in front of God and everybody, and they haven't even started nominating yet. Nobody else has anything else to offer but politics-as-usual.

The reporter covering the convention for Smithsonian Magazine told me that the Smithsonian Institution for its' own reasons believes 1980 will be a "watershed year in

politics." Not knowing how or what or whom they are checking out the various potential third parties. We have by far the best, rather the only chance of becoming the viable third party. 1980 should see us well advanced and 1984 could be the year a third party dedicated to restoring liberty first becomes a major third party.

Look around for coverage in Newsweek, Omni, and other major media over the next year.

The exact number of people attending has not been announced yet but is known to be in excess of two thousand!

#### LIBERTARIAN BOOK BEST SELLER

Restoring the American Dream by Robert Ringer has made the number four slot on the New York Times Best Seller List within only a few weeks of its' release. The book's release was preceded by \$400 million advance advertising by Harper and Row, the largest ever.

Robert Ringer's two previous books Winning Through Intimidation and Looking Out for Number One both made the number one slot on the best seller list.

My contact at B. Dalton's bookstores reports that Restoring the American Dream is now the best selling hardback in B. Dalton stores nationwide.

#### PROMETHEUS AWARD GIVEN AT FUTURISM SEMINAR

The Prometheus Award of \$2500 in gold for best Libertarian oriented science-fiction work of the year was given to F. Paul Wilson, author of Wheels Within Wheels. Tied for second place were Paul Anderson's Avatar and The Genesis Machine by James P. Hogan.

The award was presented by Robert Anton Wilson, co-author of Illuminatos! at the Libertarian Approaches to Futurism panel.

Also discussed were space industry, uses of space for national defense, and the current state of life extension research.

#### EDITORIAL - MONEY AND LABOR

The nomination of David Koch for vice-president has again raised some questions about the influence of the Koch family on the Libertarian movement.

Charles Koch, multi-millionaire head of Koch Oil Co., to my knowledge supports the Koch Foundations, the Institute for Humane Studies, the Cato Institute, Inquiry Magazine, and is a generous contributor to numerous Libertarian activities. David Koch has pledged half a million dollars just to kick off the presidential campaign.

There was some resentment at the convention at what seemed to be the outright purchase of the nomination - including the Oklahoma delegation who sat out the vote. There is fear among some Libertarians that the Koch family is in the process of purchasing the Libertarian movement itself. Those who discount these fears are often tarred with the same brush.

I have no ax to grind and no affiliation whatsoever with any of the Koch interests. I am not acquainted with either David or his brother Charles. I think these fears are largely groundless and have solid reasons based on my seven years experience as a Libertarian activist.

Experience has shown that a lot of work and little money beats lots of money and little work. By work I mean beating the street, knocking doors, and making speeches. Money is certainly needed for things like the TV exposure which makes us look real to the people but nothing beats plain old

flat-feet, sore knuckled, hoarse-voiced work. The corollary to this seems obvious, the movement will always belong to those who work at spreading it.

Money and labor are what we need. Money is nice but it is the same wherever it comes from, only you can contribute that unique blend of talents that no other human being can.

David Koch's nomination was opposed by many, including myself on the grounds that all he had to offer was money. He had previously stated that he was unable to campaign actively. In my opinion he bought the nomination, but what the heck we held out for a good price and it looks like we'll get to have our cake and eat it too. After all as Gary Greenberg of New York pointed out in his seconding speech there is no doubt that the man is a firmly committed Libertarian (half a million is not chickenfeed for anybody who works for a living) and it appears the fellow is coming to see the necessity of active campaigning. Mr. Koch, I believe was shown how much fun it can be and I think he's hooked. The chance to honorably enjoy a good fight has always been one of the greatest motivations of our second American Revolutionaries.

Good luck, David, you'll love it.

Nota Bene

Again at this convention we failed to adopt a platform plank concerning the rights of the Native Americans. The reason seems to be that the subject is tremendously complicated and requires a great deal more scholarship and research. My feeling is that we here in the mid-west, Oklahoma in particular, are in an ideal position to begin this project and have it ready two years hence. If anybody is interested get in touch please.

\$90,000 RAISED AT BANQUET

\$90,000 in pledges and contributions was raised at the Presidential Banquet Saturday night. Four ounces of gold and an ounce of silver were donated by various delegations and individuals to be matched by contributions from the floor. The Oklahoma delegation also donated an ounce.

Orson Bean served as master of ceremonies and Robert Ringer as keynote speaker.

D.O.L.L.s CAUCUS AT CONVENTION

The Dirty Ole Libertarian Ladies held their founding meeting at the Tulsa convention. Attending were charter members Mary Laurent, Lisa Branch, Andrea Hetzler, and Trina Reese. Bill Huncher wandered through on his way to the Oklahoma Caucus but managed to escape.

The D.O.L.L.s showed up at the L.A. convention with the official D.O.L.L.s T-shirt which sold quite well at the Texas booth in the huckster room.

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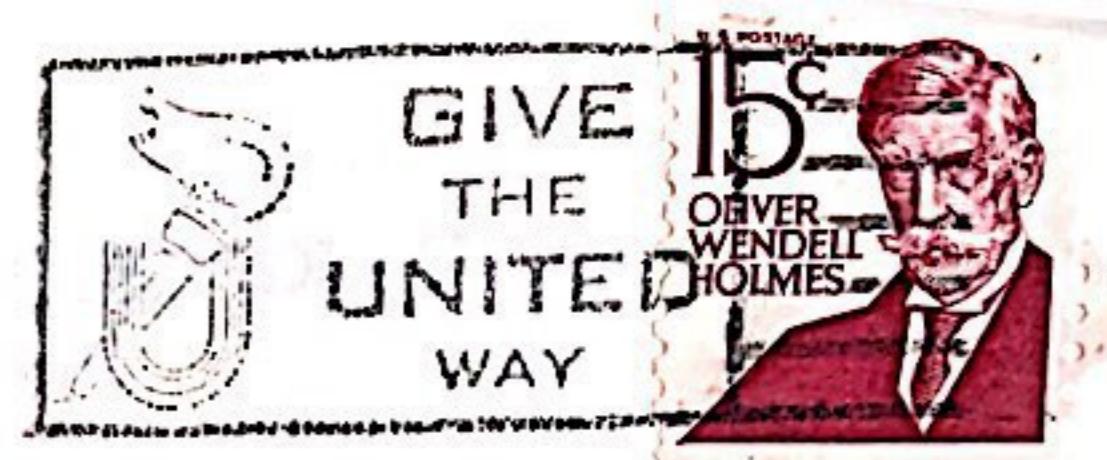
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